



EM Recovery NEWS FLASH

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Idaho's Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project Workers Complete Recovery Act Project

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho – Workers at the Idaho site completed their American Recovery and Reinvestment Act mission this fall to remove close to 4,800 cubic meters of radioactive waste from the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP).

In the expedited waste removal funded by more than \$22 million from the Recovery Act, the workers safely treated and shipped the waste — which would fill two Olympic swimming pools — from the Cold War legacy to permanent disposal facilities. The workers also retrieved an additional 2,051 cubic meters of radioactive waste, which will be treated and shipped for disposal in the months ahead.

“The expectations of DOE for successfully executing the Recovery Act were clearly met at AMWTP,” Idaho Cleanup Project Acting Deputy Manager Jim Cooper said. “It was most impressive to see how new employees could quickly and safely integrate into the existing workforce. By all accounts, the Recovery Act has been successfully carried out at AMWTP.”

The Idaho site completed the hiring process for Recovery Act workers at AMWTP seven weeks after the Recovery Act was enacted in early 2009. The crew completed its first shipment of the waste in May of that year.

Of the 52 Recovery Act workers employed at AMWTP, 45 decided to maintain employment at the Idaho site following the Recovery Act project.

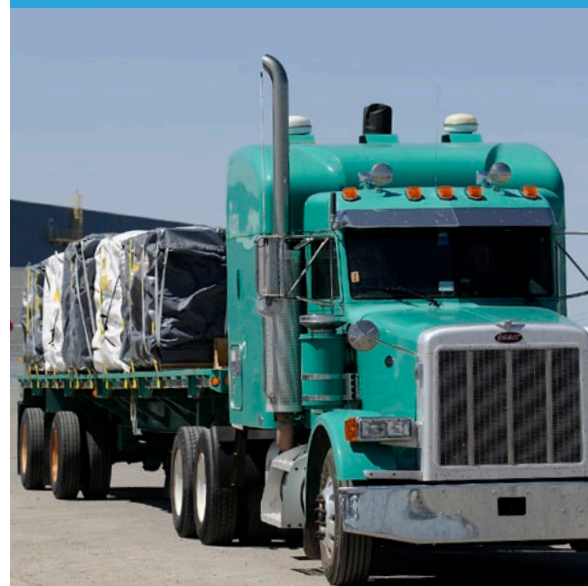
The workers will keep the project on pace to remove all legacy transuranic waste from AMWTP by 2015. That target is three years earlier than required under a regulatory compliance agreement with the state of Idaho, in part because of the Recovery Act infusion.

The waste, consisting of materials such as rags, work clothing, and machine tools, was shipped to commercial and federal waste disposal facilities, including DOE's Nevada National Security Site.

Waste from the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado, where nuclear weapons components were manufactured, was shipped to Idaho for storage decades ago.

More information on AMWTP is available at <http://amwtp.inl.gov>.

A shipment of mixed low-level radioactive waste leaves DOE's Idaho site en route to the Nevada National Security Site for permanent disposal.



An AMWTP technician inspects a drum containing radioactive waste.

